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Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment

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Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum**

Dialogue paper by business and industry***

Introduction

1. To ensure a structured and productive participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, ICC and WBCSD are helping business organizations around the world to come together under the common theme of "Business action for sustainable development" (see www.basd-action.net). Business aims to conduct a dialogue with Governments and other stakeholders participating in the Summit process and to integrate into the discussion a constructive analysis of the global business community's achievements and its continuing role in delivering sustainable development solutions.

Partnerships and type two initiatives

2. Business solutions for sustainable development focus on concrete actions and deliverable results rather than process and procedures. Partnerships between and among stakeholders often deliver more effective and practical solutions than in isolation. Public-private partnerships are also an effective delivery vehicle for capacity-building, transfer of technology and the linkage of official development assistance and foreign direct investment.

3. A recent report, "Putting partnering to work", released by Business Partners for Development, describes "tri-sector partnering", or strategic alliances for managing social issues, which capitalize on the

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** The document was submitted late to the conference services without the explanation required under paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/208 B, by which the Assembly decided that, if a report is submitted late, the reason should be included in a footnote to the document.

***The present paper is intended to contribute to a constructive multi-stakeholder dialogue, and does not necessarily represent all the views of every partner organization and/or its constitutents; the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (www.iccwbo.org) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) (www.wbscd.org) acknowledge the input and assistance provided by their members and other cooperating institutes and associations; the views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

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expertise and experience of organizations from across business, government and civil society. For example, a partnership can benefit from the project management and logistical expertise of the investing company, the strategic coordination and the ability to source funding of public services of the local government and the capacity to mobilize community participation of local NGOs and community groups.

4. United Kingdom Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, commented at the launch of the above-mentioned report that no one government or organization can afford to work in isolation. She noted that we need to recognize the different strengths and capabilities different organizations have and build partnerships and networks at the national and international levels which make the most of those different strengths.

5. World Bank President, James D. Wolfensohn, added that this is new territory, a new way of thinking, and he expressed the hope that we can engage business in the new approach as well because the currency of community development is not just money but knowledge and experience.

6. The challenge is to link "type two" partnership initiatives to Agenda 21 and the millennium development goals, and to ensure that type two initiatives support, strengthen and implement the "type one" process, agreements and outcomes of the Summit.

7. Business views the following guidelines as necessary ingredients to ensure effective partnerships:

- Include an appreciation of the three pillars of sustainable development — economic progress, environmental protection and social responsibility;
- Involve a combination of partners drawn from Governments, NGOs, business and other civil society groups, recognizing the importance of participation and partnership with other groups;
- Pursue and demonstrate credible, measurable results and/or impacts, with milestones and transparency;
- To have the greatest impact, it is desirable for projects to be replicable, transferable and inspirational — practical examples to be adapted and emulated elsewhere.

8. Organizations involved in partnerships are invited to submit, via the business action for sustainable development web site, details of suitable projects and initiatives, using the on-line facility at: http://www.basd-action.net/initiatives/index.php.